

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
OAKLAND

*Barbara J. Parker*  
CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

**OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL**

90432

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.**

**INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL FIFE  
AND CO-SPONSORED BY CITY ATTORNEY BARBARA J. PARKER**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSITION 6, WHICH IF APPROVED BY VOTERS AT THE NOVEMBER 5, 2024 GENERAL ELECTION, WOULD AMEND ARTICLE 1, SECTION 6 OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION TO PROHIBIT SLAVERY AND INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE AS PUNISHMENT FOR CRIME**

**WHEREAS**, Article 1, Section 6 of the California Constitution currently states that slavery and involuntary servitude are prohibited, except as punishment for crime; and

**WHEREAS**, the exception clause permits the continued exploitation of labor from incarcerated individuals, which disproportionately impacts people of color, particularly Black and Indigenous communities, and perpetuates systemic racial inequalities; and

**WHEREAS**, forced labor under the guise of punishment for crime is a vestige of slavery, a system that the United States Constitution's 13th Amendment sought to abolish, yet left this harmful exception intact, effectively allowing slavery by another name; and

**WHEREAS**, California is currently one of only 16 states that still retains this exception in its constitution, perpetuating a practice that should have been eradicated with the abolition of slavery; and

**WHEREAS**, Proposition 6 seeks to amend Article 1, Section 6 of the California Constitution to remove the exception clause, fully prohibiting slavery and involuntary servitude under any circumstances, thereby reaffirming California's commitment to human rights and dignity; and

**WHEREAS**, the passage of Proposition 6 aligns with the principles of justice and fairness, ensuring that no individual, regardless of their legal status, can be subjected to involuntary servitude as a means of punishment; and

**WHEREAS**, there is no formal opposition to Proposition 6, and its passage would only strengthen California's justice system by promoting rehabilitation over exploitation; and

**WHEREAS**, a broad coalition of civil rights organizations, faith leaders, labor unions, legal experts, and formerly incarcerated individuals have voiced their strong support for Proposition 6; and

**WHEREAS**, the Oakland City Council has previously passed resolutions in support state-level efforts to amend Article 1, Section 6 of the California Constitution<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Oakland recognizes the importance of historical accountability and the responsibility to dismantle the legacies of systemic injustice embedded in our state and nation's legal framework; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That the Oakland City Council hereby supports and endorses Proposition 6, which would amend Article 1, Section 6 of the California Constitution to remove the exception clause permitting slavery and involuntary servitude as punishment for crime.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE: **OCT 1 - 2024**

AYES - ~~FIVE~~, GALLO, JENKINS, KALB, KAPLAN, RAMACHANDRAN, REID, AND  
PRESIDENT FORTUNATO BAS - 7

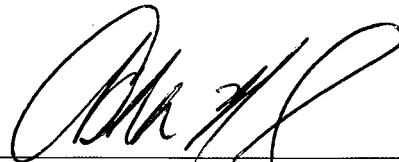
NOES - 0

ABSENT - 0

ABSTENTION - 0

Excused - 9 File

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_



ASHA REED

City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the  
City of Oakland, California

<sup>1</sup> See Resolutions 88843 CMS (2021) and 90323 C.M.S. (2024)